

Eric Hallsworth, The Red House, 46 High St. Wilburton, Cambs CB6 3BA



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Computer Chess News Sheet "SELECTIVE SEARCH 36"

Oct-Nov 1991

The purpose in publishing **SELECTIVE SEARCH** (previously known as the **NEWS SHEET**) has always been to provide a survey of the **CHESS COMPUTER** scene, with a special emphasis on reliable assessments of the **PLAYING STRENGTHS** of the many machines now available. My work at **COUNTRYWIDE COMPUTERS** is of special help in this as they provide financial backing and allow me some time off in office hours during which to prepare part of the material. We handle there a very wide range of Computers, and I enjoy freedom to maintain personal opinions and preferences which I seek to share with readers. The final selection of games and articles for each Issue is done independently and solely by myself.

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ARTICLES, REVIEWS, GAMES sent in by Readers, Distributors, Programmers etc. are always welcome and will receive fair consideration for publication.

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Welcome to another packed Issue. Sadly the expected Malcolm Pein/Murray Chandler article hasn't made it after all... but you've got Mike Healey and Graham White instead, plenty of me.. and **MANY** good games including a selection of the **BEST** from the **World Micro** in Vancouver. And Malcolm has promised something for **SS/37** (probably a **CHESSBASE** review). My mini-sermon is missing as well. Don't bother cheering, it will definitely be there in the December (**CHRISTMAS**) edition of **SS**... by which time you will also be able to compare my **CHESS MACHINE** review with **John Nunn's** in the November issue of **BCM**!

NEWS...and...RESULTSYORK UNIVERSITY TOURNAMENT, 1991

Good friend ALASTAIR CARGILL sent me the result and games a few weeks ago, but it got "squeezed" out of SS35, for which I apologise. The York team run a Tournament virtually every year, using their own machines and playing a double-Round series at 1 min per move.

First of all, here is the FINAL TABLE from the Event:-

	PR16	Mac3	Acad	PsAt	Club	SCon	TOTAL	T/Grade
Meph PORTOROSE 68000	xx	11	1½	1½	11	00	7	192
Fidelity MACH 3	00	xx	½1	1½	11	11	7	194
Mephisto ACADEMY	0½	½0	xx	11	1½	11	6½	190
PSION Atari ST	0½	0½	00	xx	'01	11	4	167
Fidelity CLUB B	00	00	0½	10	xx	1½	3	158
Novag SUPER CONSTELLATION	11	00	00	00	0½	xx	2½	156

The order at the top is based on Alastair's "sum of opponents' scores" calcs. which put the Mephisto into 1st. place on tie-break. The PORTOROSE had been expected to win in a more clear-cut manner, but who could have anticipated it would lose both of its games against the "old" SUPER CONNY?! Both the MACH 3 and the ACADEMY achieved higher scores than expected, but the CLUB disappointed a little as, based on its SS RATING, it should have scored 3½ or 4.

Alastair has promised (nudge, nudge) to send some analysis for the best games for a future issue of SS but, meantime, here are the "shorties"...

PORTOROSE 68000 - ACADEMY

1. c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 e6 6.a3 Nge7 7.b4 cb4 8.ab4 Nb4 9.Ba3 Bc3 10.dc3 [Portorose reads -078, Academy +091 at this early stage]... Nbc6 11.0-0 e5 12.Qd6 Nf5 13.Qd3 f6 [At this moment, Portorose shows 000, Academy +081] 14.Rfb1 Nfe7 15.Bc5 0-0 16.Qd6 Rf7 17.Bh3 e4 18.Nd4 a5 19.Bg2 f5 20.f3 Ra6 21.fe4 Nd4 22.Qd4 Nc6 23.Qd5 fe4 24.Rf1 Qe8 [Here, the Portorose has gone to a plus of 063, Academy -012] 25.Rf7 Qf7 26.Rf1 Qd5 27.cd5 Na7 28.Be3 Kg7 29.Be4 b5 [Both machines have small plusses!?] 30.Bd4 [+169] Kg8 [-163] 31.d6 h5 32.Bd5 Kh7 33.Rf8 Kh6 34.Bf6, announcing Mate in 3.

CLUB - ACADEMY

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 c5 7.dc5 Nc6 8.cd5 ed5 9.Be2 Bc5 10.0-0 Be6 11.Rc1 Rc8 12.a3 Bb6 13.Qa4 Nh5 14.Bg5 f6 15.Bh4 g6 16.Rfd1 g5 17.Ne1 Qe8 18.Bg3 Ng3 19.hg3 Ne5 20.Qe8 Rfe8 21.Nc2 Rcd8 22.Na4 Rd6 23.Nb6 Rb6 24.b4 Rbc6 25.Rd2 Nc4 26.Bc4 Rc4 27.f4 gf4 28.gf4 Bf5 29.Rd5 Bc2 30.Rd6 f5

31.Kf2 Be4 32.Rc4 Rc4 33.Rd2 Rc2 34.Rc2 Bc2 35.Kg3 Bb3 36.Kh4 Be6 37.Kg5 Kg7
38.b5 Bd7 39.a4 h6 40.Kh4 Bb5!!! 41.ab5 a5 42.ba6 ba6 43.e4 fe4 44.f5 a5. 0-1.

The next one isn't a "shortie", but I know you'd love to see one of the Super Constellation's "shock" wins over mighty Portorose!

SUPER CONSTELLATION - PORTOROSE 60000

1.e4 d6 [Not Portorose's best on results but, along with the over-used Caro Kann, one of its favourites] 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.e5 de5 7.fe5 Nd5 8.Bc4 Nb6 9.Be2 c5 10.d5 Bg4 11.0-0 Bf3 12.Bf3 Be5 13.Kh1 Bc3?! 14.bc3 Qd6 15.Bh6 Rd8 16.Qe2 N8e7 17.Rab1 Nd5 18.Rb7 Nc3 [So... Portorose has gone 2 Pawns up! - but can you see what it must lose?] 19.Qc4 Qf6 20.Rd7 Rd7 21.Ba8 Qf1 22.Qf1 Rd1 23.Qd1 Nd1 [Oops, a piece down!] 24.Bf3 Nc3 25.Be3 e5 26.Bc5 e4 27.Bg4 f5 28.Bh3 a5 29.a3 Kf7 30.Kg1 Ke6 31.Kf2 Kd5 32.Bb6 a4 33.Bd8 Nb5 34.Be7 Nd4 35.c3 Nc2 36.g4 f4 37.g5 Ne3 38.Ke2 Nc4 39.Bc8 f3 40.Kf2 Ke5 41.Ba6 Kd5 42.Bf6 Nd6 43.Bd4 Ke6 44.Bc5 Nf5 45.Bb5 Ke5 46.Be3 Nd6 47.Ba4 Nc4 48.Bc1 Kf5 49.Bd7 Ke5 50.a4 Kd5 51.Bb5 Nd6 52.Be3 Nc4 53.Bc4 Kc4 54.Bd4 Kd5 55.a5 Kc6 56.a6 Kc7 57.a7 Kb7 58.Ke3 f2 59.Kf2 Ka8 60.Ke3 Kb7 Ke4 1-0, and fair enough!

MACH 3 - ACADEMY

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Ne4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.de5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Qe2 Nc5 12.Nd4 Nb3 13.Nc6 Nc1 14.Rac1 Qd7 15.Ne7 Qe7 16.Nf3 c5 17.Qe3 Rac8 18.Rcd1 Rfd8 19.Rfe1 Bf5 20.Re2 h6 21.Red2 Be4 22.Ne1 [The start of an excellent little tour]... Qe6 23.Nd3 Qc6 24.Nf4 g5 25.Nh5 Kf8 26.Nf6 Bf5 27.Rd5 Rd5 28.Rd5 Be6 29.Rd6 Qa8 30.Qd3 g4 31.Qh7 Rd8 32.Qh6 Ke7 33.Qh4 Kf8 34.Nd5 Bd5 35.Rd8, and 1-0. A very powerful finish played by the Mach 3 making for an impressive win.

From the full list of games sent to me there are also quick wins for PORTOROSE against CLUB (31 moves), and MACH 3 against SUPER CONSTELLATION (29), so I'll aim to include those next time together with whatever Alastair sends.

The full AEGON 1991 Result

The leading scores from this COMPUTER v. HUMAN Event (plus some Gradings) were given in SS/35. Here, now, is the full list of COMPUTER performances, in points scored order.

As far as I can tell you, CHESS MACHINE K refers to "THE KING" program by Konig (4th. in World Micro Software), and CHESS MACHINE S refers to the Ed Schroeder program (1st. in World Micro under the name "GIDEON"). You get both when you buy The Chess Machine. The MEPHISTO which obtained the massive 2534 grading was a special 50MHz unit, and not one of the commercial 36 MHz versions.

Program	Score	Opps Grade	Tourn Grade
M CHESS 486/25	4 /6	2281	2414
Mephisto LYON 68030/50	3½	2468 (!)	2534
REX Chess 486/25	3½	2323	2389
Mephisto LYON 68020	3	2312	2312
Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6	3	2188	2188
Fidelity 68020/v7	3	2130	2130
Mephisto LYON 68030	2½	2370	2303
HITECH (main frame!)	2½	2357	2290
CHESS MACHINE K	2½	2297	2230
QUEST	2½	2264	2198
Mephisto POLGAR/18	2½	2226	2159
CHESS MACHINE S	2	2425 (!)	2292
Fidelity 68040/v10	2	2392	2259
ZARKOV	2	2292	2159
CHESS PLAYER X	1½	2372	2172
Fidelity 68030/v9	1½	2221	2021
FRITZ	1½	2191	1991
Novag SUPER EXPERT C/9	1½	2168	1968
Novag SUPER FORTE C/6	1	2077	1810
ECHEC	½	2120	1787

The usual crop of surprises included a brilliant SUPER EXPERT B result - yet just look where the two 'C' versions ended up!? Also Fidelity's 68020 came ahead of its bigger brother 68030 and 68040 (though the 68040 faced tougher opposition and did get a better grade). ECHEC suffered another disaster! You will remember this was the only program which ran the LYON at all close in the 1990 World Software Champs., but then failed quite miserably in 1991 and came 10th. The result of HITECH indicates that, as we humans get more and more used to playing computer programs, sheer speed is becoming even less effective. The BEST dedicated programs do the best job!

NOVAG at San Jose Open

The strange and disappointing Novag result above is quite in contrast to its fine performance at San Jose though it may, admittedly, have been playing against less computer-aware opposition. A TURBO-BOOSTED SUPER FORTE B scored a decent 4½/9 (grading not known), but this time the 'B' program was overshadowed by the 'C' upgrade as a SUPER EXPERT C/9 (thus the same 9MHz system that played at Aegon) got 5½/9 and achieved a fine 2235 grade.

Points gained by the 'C/9' program included a draw with Ramo (2405), and a win over Carruez (2165). Two very quick wins went as follows:-

Novag SUPER EXPERT C/9 - MORENO (1945)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.Nc3 Nd4 5.exf5 Qf6 6.Nxd4 exd4 7.Nd5 Qe5+ 8.Qe2 Qxe2+ 9.Bxe2 Rd8 10.d3 c6 11.Bg5+ Be7 12.Nxe7 Nxe7 13.f6 gxf6 14.Bxf6 Rg8 15.0-0 Rg6 16.Bxd4 d6 17.Bh5 Rg5 18.Bf3 Rc7 19.Bf6, and 1-0.

Novag SUPER EXPERT C/9 - A.ALONSO (2025)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.e4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.dxe6 Bxe6 9.Bd3 Re8 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.exd5 Nb4 13.Be2 Ng4 14.a3 Na6 15.Re1 Re4 16.h3 Ne3 17.Qd3 Qe7 18.Bf1 Re8 19.Ng5 Bd4 20.Qxe4 Qd8 21.Bxe3 Rxe4 22.Nxe4 Bxb2 23.Rab1, and 1-0.

Computers in SWEDISH Champs

In my NEWS report in SS/35 I referred to the new 68000 programs (DIABLO and SCORPIO) which will shortly be appearing from Novag.

I reported on some early results of an EXPERIMENTAL pre-launch version, and estimated an 80-90 Elo improvement for the new program over the SUPER FORTE and EXPERT C/6 (though I note Eureka, the main distributor, is talking of 200 Elo, and they may well have more or different information to mine). However I do learn that the early score from Sweden of 3-5 for DIABLO v LYON 68000 ended up at 5½-14½, which will be at least a bit disappointing.

On the other hand Larry Kaufman reports to Gerald Murphy that his Blitz and Action Chess tests are holding solidly at around a 90 Elo improvement. To further complicate the calculations, Gerald also sent me the FINAL SCORES of all of the Computers which were entered in various sections of the SWEDISH CHAMPIONSHIP event. I had reported that DIABLO had 5½/8 for 2054 Swedish (=2154/194 BCF) with 1 round to go. Unfortunately it lost its last game to a 1784 player, so the final scores and grades for the four Computers was:-

Nophisto LYON 68020/12	8½/12 = Grading	2209 = British	2309/214 BCF
Novag DIABLO 68000	5½/ 9	1972 =	2072/184 BCF
Conchess PLYMATE VICTORIA	3 / 7	1840 =	1940/168 BCF
Nophisto MM5/5	2½/ 6	1753 =	1853/157 BCF

The different number of games played by each machine is caused by the fact that the Swedish Championships operate on a different system to ours. They separate the players, in grading order I believe, into groups to form a TOP Section, then Sections 1, 2, 3 etc. A (privately owned) Computer is often entered in each group - though never before into the Championship Section until the LYON this year - and the Sections are ALL-PLAY-ALL (you 'duck' the Computer, you lose the point!... so everyone plays against them, like it or not!).

As Goran Grottlings reports, the LYON 68020 performance is the highest ever achieved in the Swedish Championships (he shows the figure as 2217, a little above our calculation). However Mephisto's elation with the LYON result will no doubt be tempered by disappointment over the MM5 effort. This is MM5's second poor showing against humans and is, I believe, largely caused by its smallish opening book which makes it too easy for good players to prepare against. Remember that we had this trouble using the much bigger POLGAR opening book in the 1990 British and, as reported elsewhere, even had problems this year with one winning line repeated no less than four times against a LYON!

The annual Swedish revision of their Rating List level was carried out after the Championship results were in, and their overall Ratings for Computers has risen by just 1 point. As Goran says, this clearly indicates that they have found virtually the exactly correct level for the Swedish listings. During the same 12 month period, and including the British Championship result for the LYON 68000, the overall Computer Ratings in "SELECTIVE SEARCH" have dropped by only 3 points, which indicates that we, too, are continuing to produce pretty accurate British-equivalent figures.

The PLYMATE VICTORIA program used to appear in my Rating List, but was removed when it failed to make a commercial appearance over here (though all of its known results continue within my rating system). However it has become available in the home area of its Swedish programmer (Ulf Rathsmann) and is now appearing on their Rating Lists (it shows at 44 Elo above the PLYMATE/5.5 on their latest figures after 246 test games).

Back to the DIABLO, and what should we say of it? The result should be put into clearer perspective by showing the current figures for both the B/6 and C/6 programs alongside...

	<u>Swedish Rating</u>	<u>Swedish v humans</u>	<u>SS Rating</u>	<u>SS v humans</u>
SUPER FORTE-EXPERT B/6	1899	1892 (9 games)	2029	2020 (80)
SUPER FORTE-EXPERT C/6	1949	1996 (15 games)	2056	2005 (24)
DIABLO-SCORPIO		1972 (9 games)		(2072 9)

Not at all clear-cut is it? - especially as the v human results are such small samples. We're still in August as I write this part of SS, but I think I'll stay with my 80-90 Elo improvement forecast for now, and we'll see what happens. If the program should come out before SS/36 goes to press, there'll be an update by an "official" appearance in the Rating List. In the meantime Paul Cohen at Eureka kindly did the Pergamon CHESS "Beat the Masters" for me with the experimental version he has, and those results should appear in late September (the October issue), which would be worth looking out for.

Computer v Computer Results

QUADRANGULAR TOURNAMENT, 1991. 10 games each match.

	Mach3	Polgr	NSFC	D2100	TOTAL
Fidelity MACH 3	xx	6	6	8½	20½
Mephisto POLGAR	4	xx	4½	8½	17
Novag SUPER FORTE C	4	5½	xx	6½	16
Fidelity DESIGNER 2100	1½	1½	3½	xx	6½

FIVE-WAY TOURNAMENT, Germany. 30 games each match!

	D2265	Polgr	MMIV	Mach2	TKing	SConn	TOTAL
Fidelity DESIGNER 2265	xx	16½	21½	19	24½	27	108½
Mephisto POLGAR	13½	xx	19	17½	24	24	98
Mephisto MMIV(4)	8½	11	xx	19½	20	24½	83½
Fidelity MACH 2	11	12½	10½	xx	20½	22	76½
SciSys TURBO KING (1?)	5½	6	10	9½	xx	21	52
Novag SUPER CONSTELLATION	3	6	5½	8	9	xx	31½

Pretty much according to form, apart from MM4 coming ahead of MACH 2. The result is a disappointment for TURBO KING's supporters, and it's a pity there wasn't stronger Novag program involved. All of the above six machines were then played against a Mephisto LYON 68020/12, but as the number of games in each match varies, the LYON cannot be included in the final table. Results were:-

Mephisto LYON 68020 v	DESIGNER 2265	16½-3½
	POLGAR	12 -8 (very good Polgar result)
	MMIV(4)	8½-1½
	MACH 2	9 -1
	TURBO KING	9 -1
	SUPER CONSTELLATION	18 -2

Frank Holt's LATEST

Frank has his Novag SUPER FORTE "C" chip installed now, and writes to say the results of the "C" against his LYON 68020 show a definite improvement over the achievements of the "B". The totals which follow include games at a range of playing speeds, but exclude the Blitz results which I never include for rating purposes (minimum requirement is 1min per move).

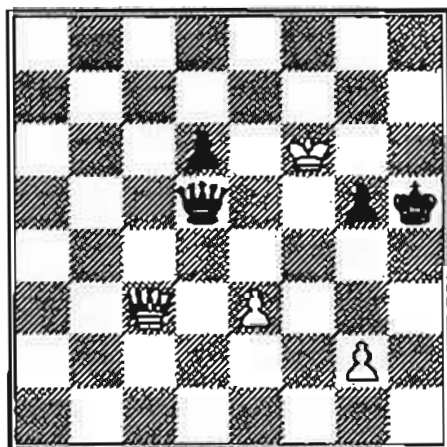
SUPER FORTE B - LYON solid	3 -13
LYON active	3 -13 (19%)
LYON risky	½-15½
SUPER FORTE C - LYON active	7½-16½ (31%)

If Frank continues with his usual research and tries the FORTE C against LYON c solid and risky as well, then results will appear in SS.

ENDGAME CORNER by Graham White

This instalment covers a favourite topic of mine - the world of endgame studies. All mating problems are checked by computers these days and, in my experience, they are often useful for checking studies - an advantage not enjoyed by the following composers, as the following positions show.

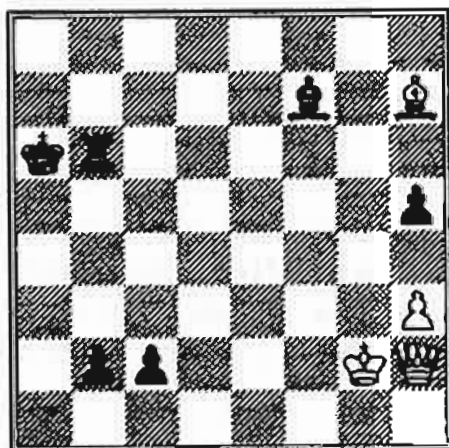
Study 1



A Problem by **Prokes**, with White to play and win. Here is his solution:-

1.e4! Qxe4 2.Qb3+ Qb4 3.g4+ Kh6
4.Qxh4+ 1-0

Study 2



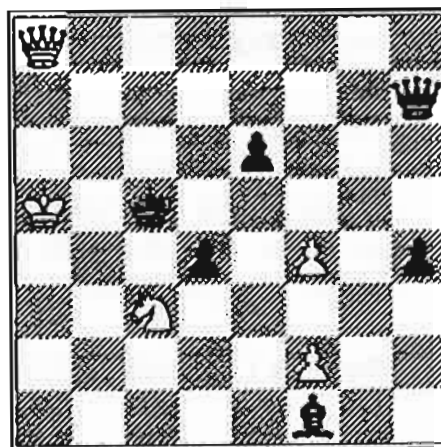
Again we start with the composer's solution (this time it's **Troitsky**). White to play and draw.

1.Bd3+! Kb7 2.Bxc2 b1Q 3.Bxh1
Rh2+ 4.Kg3 h4+ 5.Kxh4 Rxb2 6.Be4+

Kb6 7.Bg2 - and draws!

But Prokes and Troitsky - both great composers - each missed improvements! In the first Lyon finds a mate announcement at the end; and in the second a WIN for Black! Can you (or your computer!?)

Study 3



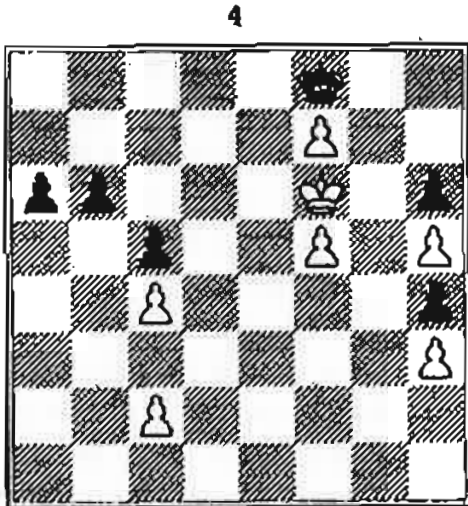
This is another by **Troitsky**: this time it is White to play and win, and here is his solution.

1.Qc8+ Kd6 2.Ne4+ Qxe4 3.Qd8+ Kc5
4.Qb6+ Kc4 5.Qb4+ Kd5 [5...Kd3
6.Qb1+] 6.Qb7+ - and wins.

But can you find a second winning line, starting at move 2, which the Lyon discovered?

Study 4

Here, White is to play and get the draw. This is a fantastic study by **Lazard** - can you or your computer solve it?

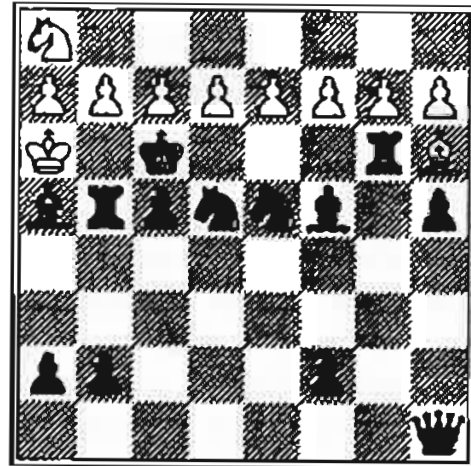


Study 5

Here is a quite astonishing problem by **Cheron**. No... please don't adjust your sets, I do have my board the right way round! Not

only is the visual position a little out of the ordinary (!) - so is the solution which requires White to play and mate in 8.

Solutions will be found on the inside back cover.



EASTBOURNE REPORT (28/7-10/8/1991) by Mike Healey

This was the second year in succession that the British Championships had been staged in Eastbourne. After last year's horrific news, with Eastbourne's MP being murdered nearby on the very first day, and then one chessplayer running amok in a Chinese restaurant on the middle Saturday (luridly reported in the National tabloids, of course), we hoped for dramatic happenings of an entirely different kind.

As before, Countrywide had a double involvement - three Mephisto computers playing in the Major Open, and an extensive Display, exhibiting and selling Mephisto and Fidelity computers, plus a few Novag and Saitek.

The Major Open

Whereas the field for the British Championships itself was a little weaker than last year, that for the Major Open was stronger, partly due to six or seven highly rated Israeli players, most

of whom we had to play against!

We are generally allowed to enter whichever models we choose, but the BCF had been concerned that our top computers might sweep all before them, so we decided to enter the LYON 16 - the 'weakest' of the four Lyon versions - though in the eyes of most of its opponents a formidable and powerful beastie. So three Lyon 16's (housed in Modular boards) played 11 games each.

The final tally was 14 wins, 8 draws and 11 losses. The breakdown of this was very interesting. Against opponents graded over 200 BCF, and averaging 210 BCF, (or Elo equivalent) we had 4 wins, 4 draws and 5 defeats. Against players 200 or below, it was 10 wins, 4 draws and 6 defeats. The most telling statistic (repeating our experience of last year) was that Lyon A, with our experienced operator Eddy, achieved 7/11, whereas the identical Lyon B and Lyon C, operated by inexperienced youngsters,

who often lost much time transferring moves or just wandering off (!), fared less well. Indeed one of our defeats was a loss on time solely for this reason, and three other games almost went the same way!! The frustrating thing about the game actually lost on time was that it was reaching a really exciting climax. Everyone around was clear as to which side was winning - the only difference was that they were evenly divided! Our opponent had thought his game was lost, but we never had the opportunity to prove it!

One particular development reared its head again this year, and although it causes us a high level of apoplexy, it does have its funnier moments. Paul Griffiths, a very strong junior, beat the Lyon fairly and squarely with a novel opening, but the game was then circulated amongst a host of other potential opponents, and one of these gentlemen managed to reproduce the entire game, giving us another loss. Then a third opponent repeated the play, sitting there grinning hugely, in total control. Until, that is, the computer refused to oblige and played an entirely different move. Our opponent (to quote from P.G.Woodhouse) did not exactly look disgruntled, but he was far from grunted. "Gobsmacked" seems to be the "in" word for such occasions. It did prove that computers seem to have a mind of their own, even if not all chessplayers do!

Some of the games played were excellent, with fine play on both sides, and there will be a full sample, plus grading results, in the next **Selective Search**.

Our Stand

The days are invariably long and quite arduous - something in the order of a 12 hour continuous stint. But we must surely enjoy it, or we wouldn't do it??

One early highlight was the presence of the BBC TV cameras, interviewing here, filming there.

It's amazing how much nicer one is to all and sundry, when you know there's a fair chance your unflagging courtesy may be there for millions to see on the 9 o'clock news. As it happened, there was fair coverage that evening on **BBC Newsnight**, and two or three of us were seen in the background during David Norwood's interview - all trying to look efficient. Fame at last.

We always have a dilemma at Congresses where we have computers playing, as to whether to have a similar model also on our stand. The argument in favour is that the computers playing do create a lot of interest, and some people may well wish to purchase an identical one if we have it displayed. The argument against is that potential opponents can (and do) practise on it, and this makes it more likely that someone will find an unusual opening variation against the computer, hone it to perfection, and offer it around to all and sundry!

So we didn't have a Lyon on the stand until part way through the second week, when we brought out the "Big Boy", the Munchen Lyon 68030, all £4,850 of him. We challenged all-comers to play it for £1 a game, £5 if they beat it. Before long, hordes of FM's, IM's and GM's were beating a path to our stand, and the content of our petty cash tin continued to swell until it began to look like the vaults at Fort Knox (no relation to Vic Knox or Dave Knox I understand). Later on in the week one or two very uncharitable players began to win the odd game, and our pile of ill-gotten gains reduced enough to stop us feeling too guilty! Rather than pen a long list of highly eminent scalps that the 68030 duffed up, let's just say that only two players came out ahead - Julian Hodgson 1-0, and Peter Wells 2-1.

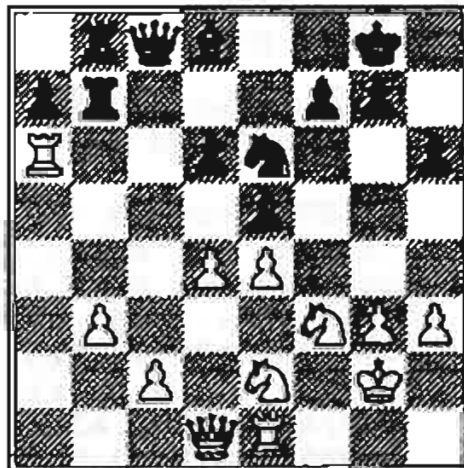
At the end of the Congress, our team were all so exhausted we decided "never again". But three days later, we cannot wait for next year's event (at Plymouth we understand). It seems the addiction is beyond the curable stage!

Now v Spracklen

WMicro Champs (r 1), 1991

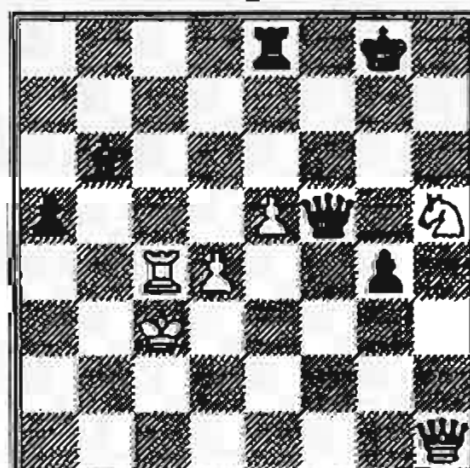
1.♠f3 c5 2.g3 ♠c6 3.♠g2 e5 4.e4 ♠e7 5.♠c3 d6 6.d3 ♠f6 7.0-0
0-0 8.♠e3 ♠d4 9.a4 ♠g4 10.a5 [10.h3? ♠xf3+ 11.♠xf3 ♠xh3] 10...
♠d7 11.a6 bxa6?! 12.♠xa6 ♠ab8 13.b3 ♠b6 14.♠a5 ♠d8 15.♠a1 ♠b7
16.♠a6 h6 17.♠e1 ♠e7 18.♠f1 ♠fb8 19.♠e1 - Not very inspiring
stuff, I'm afraid - 19...♠h3?! 20.♠a5 ♠xg2 21.♠xg2 ♠g4 22.h3
♠xe3+ 23.fxe3 ♠d8 24.♠a6 ♠e6 25.d4 cxd4 26.exd4 ♠c8 27.♠e2
diag

1



27...♠xb3 28.♠xd6 ♠xf3!? 29.♠xf3 ♠g5+ 30.♠e3 exd4+ 31.♠xd4 ♠b6
32.h4 ♠e6 33.c3 ♠xd4 34.cxd4 ♠c6 - The position clarifies, and
we see that the NOW programmer's claim that he was 3 Pawns up
until the Time Control function went wrong, is clearly not
true - 35.♠d3 ♠e8 36.♠c1 ♠e6 37.♠f4 ♠e5 38.g4 g5 39.hxg5 hxg5
40.♠h5 ♠d8 - It is true that NOW has begun playing much too
fast now (!) and his position deteriorates slowly from here.
Still he was never 3 Pawns up, as we have seen, and a draw
would have really been the fair claim - 41.♠c4 ♠h8 42.♠d2 a5
43.♠b2 ♠e8 44.♠c2 f5 45.gxf5 ♠xf5 46.♠g2 g4 47.♠h1 ♠g8 48.♠d3
♠g5 49.e5 ♠f5+ 50.♠d2 ♠f2+ 51.♠d3 ♠f5+ 52.♠c3 diag

2



52...♠xd4+! - The SPRACKLEN play has not been particularly

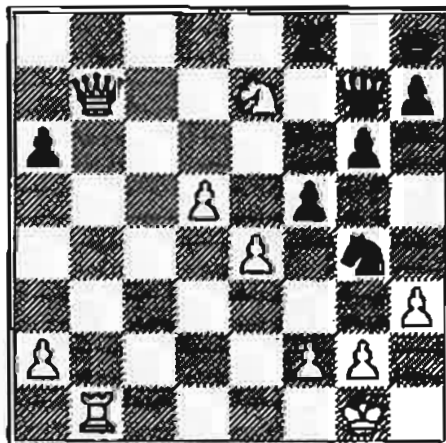
inspiring, considering that NOW is moving after only 2 or 3 secs. But this move is an interesting, if risky, attempt to make something of the position - 53.♠xd4 - It may be that NOW evaluated at close to +300 (3 Pawns) at this point in the game. One or two other programs go close to this in their early thinking, but eventually come back down to earth! - 53... ♠c8+ 54.♖d2 ♖f2+ 55.♖d3 ♖f5+ 56.♠e4 ♖d7+ 57.♖e3 ♠c3+ 58.♖f4 ♠f3+ 59.♖xf3 gxf3 60.♖f6+ ♖g7 61.♖xd7 f2 62.e6 f1♖+ 63.♖e5 ♖b5+ 64.♖d4 ♖g6 65.♖c5 ♖e8 66.e7 ♖f7 67.♖e3 ♖f6 68.♠f4+ ♖g6 69.♠e4 ♖g7 - Of course White has a certain draw here, apart from its wretched time bug. The result is we are eventually treated to a series of inefficient moves which allow an otherwise insipid SPRACKLEN program an undeserved win - 70.♖e6+ [70.♖f4 looks better] 70... ♖f7 71.♖d8+ ♖g6 72.♠e6+ [72.♖b7 looks the sure way to guarantee the draw] 72... ♖f5 - And the checks come to an end - 73.♖d4 a4 - At last... a positive move from Black - 74.♖c4 ♖f4 75.♖c6 ♖g5 76.♖d3?! [76.♖b4 actually has the SPRACKLEN program under pressure! It is amazing that NOW, at 1-2 secs per move, has got this far and is still in the game. But Black's play has never sparkled, as if only able to see a draw] 76... ♖h5 77.♖e5?? [77.♖c4 still looks to be equal to me] 77... a3 78.♖c3? [78.♖d4 protecting the Knight... a2 79.♠a6 results in a tricky Q v R+N finish which White could still draw!] 78... a2 - Which wins in all variations now - 79.♖b2 ♖b5+ 80.♖xa2 ♖d5+ - And White resigned - 0-1

Spracklen v M Chess 486

WMicro Champs (r 2), 1991

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♖f3 ♖g7 4.♖c3 d5 5.♠g5 dxc4 6.e4 c5 7.d5 ♖b6 8.♖b1 ♖fd7 9.♖xc4 ♖b4 10.♖d2 ♖xc3 11.bxc3 ♖xc3 - Seeming to win a Pawn, but entering into dangerous territory - 12.0-0 ♖b6 13.♠c1 ♖g7 14.♖b5+ ♖d7 15.♠xc5 a6 16.♖xd7+ ♖xd7 17.♠c1 f6 18.♠e3 ♖e5 19.♖b3 ♖g4 20.♖c4 ♖xe3 21.♖b6 ♠b8 22.♠xc8+ ♠xc8 23.♖xc8 ♖g4 24.♖xb7 - SPRACKLEN has played this well. It has the more active pieces and is beginning to win material - 24...0-0 25.♖xe7+ ♖h8 26.h3 f5 27.♠b1 diag

3



27... ♖xf2! 28.e5 [28.♖xf2 fxe4+ (28... ♖d4+ could be better...]

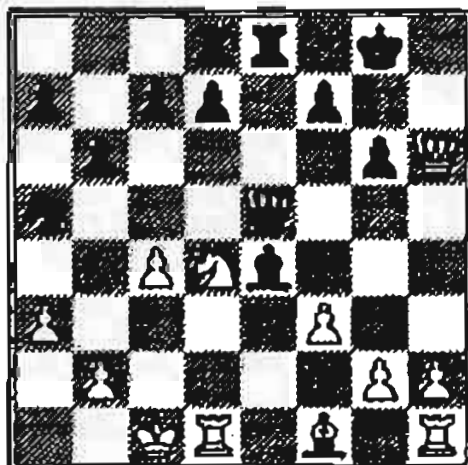
29.♟g3 ♖e5+ 30.♟f3 fxe4+ 31.♟e3 ♟g3+) 29.♟g1 ♟d4+] 28...♟e4 29.♟c7 ♖h6 30.e6 ♖e3+ 31.♟h2 ♟f6 - I like the way M CHESS tries to get its pieces into the pressure areas - 32.♟b3 ♖h6 33.♟b7 ♟g7 34.♟h1 - As in Round 1, the SPRACKLEN program shows a propensity for meandering with its King. 34.Ra7 would have been a more positive approach. Now M CHESS can seek some initiative of its own - 34...♟e8 35.♟f4 g5 36.♟g3 g4 - White's d and e Pawns still look as if they ought to win the game, don't they? - 37.a3 ♟f6 38.♟b3 gxf3 39.gxf3 f4! 40.d6 f3! 41.♟xf3 ♟d5! - An excellent move which threatens immediately to draw the game - 42.♟e2?! [42.♟xd5 allows mate in 2!; 42.♟g6+! hxf6 (42...♟xg6? 43.♟xf8+ is mate in 5) 43.♟xg7 ♟xf3 44.♟f7 wins] 42...♟g3 - And the draw is gained by this as far as I can tell, though they played on for a few more moves - 43.♟g2 ♖el+ 44.♟g1 ♖e4+ 45.♟h2 ♖e5+ 46.♟h1 ♟xe7 47.dxe7 ♟d5+ 48.♟h2 ♟d6+ 49.♟h1 ♟d5+ - And a draw was agreed - [49...♟d5+ 50.♟g2 ♟xg2+ 51.♟xg2 ♟e8 52.♟d7 ♟g7 53.♟f3 ♟f6 and both the doubled e/Pawns will fall, leaving a dead draw] ½-½

Mephisto v The King

WMicro Champs (r 2), 1991

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 ♟e4 4.♟f3 ♟b4+ 5.♟d2 ♟xd2 6.♟bxd2 ♟c6 7.a3 ♟xd2+ 8.♟xd2 ♖e7 9.♟f4 0-0 10.0-0-0?! - This doesn't look too sound! 10.Rd1 would have been better, still aiming to find safety on the K/side for the King - 10...♟e8 11.♟d5 b6 12.e4 ♟b7 13.♟f5 ♟ad8 14.♟g5 g6 15.♟f4 ♟a5 16.♟d1 h6 17.♟f3 ♖e6 18.♟xh6 - Missing the threat and making an unfavourable exchange of Pawns - [18.♟d3 threatening ♟xh6... g5 19.♟g3 with still a very small advantage, perhaps. White's problems all stem from castling Q/side (19.♟e3?? ♟xc4!)] 18...♟xe4 - With the simple threat of 19...Nb3+! - 19.♟d4 ♖xe5 20.f3

4



- Black is going to win a Pawn in the middle of (to me!) horrendous complications. If you're like me, a diagram will help you and give you a place to come back to so you can go over it again - 20...d5! 21.♟e3 [21.fxe4!? dxc4 (21...dxe4 is also possible) 22.♟e3 ♟xd4 23.♟xd4 ♟b3+ seems to come out slightly better for MEPHISTO than the move played] 21...c5! 22.cxd5 ♟xd5 23.fxe4 ♟xe4 24.♟f3 ♟xd4 25.♟xd5 ♟4xd5 26.♟a6?! -

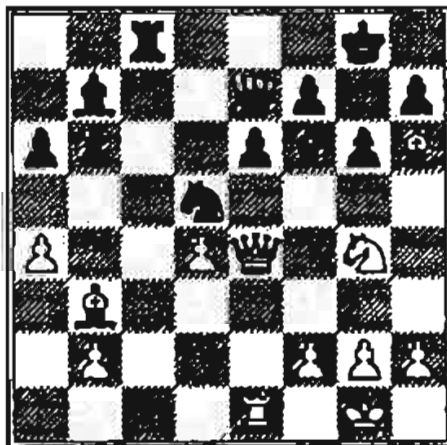
So the Pawn has been lost by White; and this is hardly the best continuation now (Be2 or even Rxd5 were preferable). Black has gained an imposing position to go with his extra Pawn - 26...Qb3+ 27.Qc2 Qd4+ 28.Qb1 b5 29.Qh1 Q5d6 30.Qb7 f5 31.g3 Q6d7 32.Qg2 c4 33.Qd2 Qg7 34.Qed1 Qd6 35.h4 Qf6 36.Qh1? - A poor square for a Bishop, and White could ill afford to throw any tempi away - 36...a5 37.Qg2 b4 38.Qxb4 Qxb4 39.Qc1?! - Putting itself into an obvious fork - on the basis of having a saving check. But 39.Rf2 would have avoided what now transpires - 39...Qb3 40.Qxd6+ Qxd6 41.Qf1? - Well I don't know what this was for! My LYON stays on 41.Rg1 through 15 mins and, whilst the game is almost surely still lost, the chances are slightly better than those obtained after Bf1 - [41.Qg1 Qd2 42.Qa2 Qd4 43.Qa1 c3 most probably still wins for THE KING; but MEPHISTO's chances are surely better than with the move as played?!!] 41...Qxc1 42.Qxc1 Qd4 - The Computers evaluate Black as between +400 and +500 ahead now, but they play on for a little longer - 43.Qe2 c3 44.Qxc3 Qxc3 45.h5 Qd2 46.Qf3 Qxh5 47.Qxh5 Qg5 48.Qf3 Qf2 49.Qd5 Qg4 50.Qc6 Qxg3 51.Qd1 - But White resigned after playing this - 0-1

M Chess v Mephisto

WMicro Champs (r 3), 1991

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 - A favourite response of Mephisto's 68000/20/30 progs, though not especially successful I find. I would like to see the program play more of e6 and c6 - 3.Qf3 Qf6 4.e3 e6 5.Qxc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.a4 Qc6 8.Qe2 cxd4 9.Qd1 Qe7 10.exd4 0-0 11.Qc3 Qd5 12.Qe5 Qcb4 13.Qb3 Qf6 14.Qd2 b6 15.Qxd5 Qxd5 16.Qc2 Qb7 17.Qe4 g6 18.Qh6 Qe8 19.Qac1 Qc8 20.Qe1 Qe7 21.Qb3 Qed8 22.Qxc8 Qxc8 23.Qg4 diag

5



23...a5?! [23...Qg7? attempting to drive off some of White's attacking force, would be a mistake... 24.Qxg7 Qxg7 25.Qxd5!; 23...Qg5 is however a satisfactory continuation, as recommended by Malcolm Pein in his weekly chess Article for the European... 24.Qxg5 Qxg5 25.Qxd5 exd5 and Black comes out at least equal (25... Qxd5 is also fine; 25...Qxd5?? is not! 26.Qf6+ wins)] 24.Qxf6+ Qxf6? - A suicidal way to exchange after which M CHESS is able to advance the d/Pawn dangerously

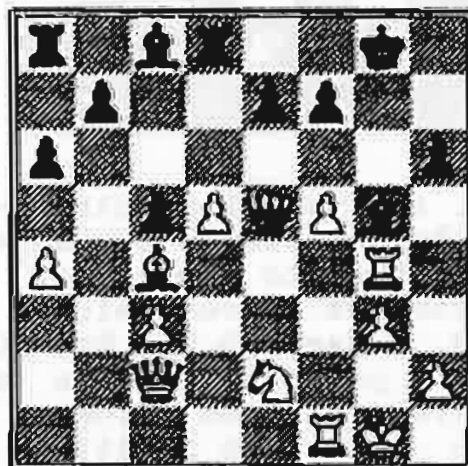
- [24...♙xf6 is the only move here, without which Black is probably lost] 25.♖e5! ♔e8 26.d5! - Excellent timing! - 26...♙b4 27.♖e3 ♔a6 [27...exd5?? is a disaster... 28.♙xe8+ ♖xe8 29.♖xe8+ mate; 27...♔xd5? 28.♔xd5! wins, for the same reason] 28.♖xe6 ♔f6 - It must have hurt MEPHISTO to have to play this and leave that dreadful e/Pawn threatening everything from discovered check to promotion! - 29.e7+ ♔c4 30.♔xc4+ ♙xc4 31.♙xb6 ♔d5 32.h3 ♙f7 33.b4 axb4 34.♙xb4 ♖c7 35.♔d2 ♙a2 36.♙h4 h5 37.♔d4 ♖c2 [37...♖xe7? is yet another trap avoided by MEPHISTO! 38.♖xe7+ ♙xe7 39.♔b4+ ♙f7 40.♔d7+ mate!] 38.♔c3 ♙b3 39.♖e3 ♙b1+ 40.♔e1 ♙b7 41.a5 - Oh no! Not another one! - 41...♖c7 42.♔d8 ♖xe7 43.a6! ♖xe3 44.axb7 ♖xe1+ 45.♙h2 ♖b1 46.b8♙ ♖xb8 47.♙xb8 ♔g7 48.♙c7+ - And Black resigned. Incredible! Seven consecutive World Championship victories for Richard Lang are as good as ended, with his program losing 2 of its first 3 games! - 1-0

Gideon (CM) v M Chess

WMicro Champs (r 4), 1991

1.d4 ♔f6 2.c4 g6 3.♔c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♔xd5 5.e4 ♔xc3 6.bxc3 ♔g7 7.♔c4 c5 8.♔e2 0-0 9.0-0 ♔c6 10.♔e3 ♙c7 11.♖c1 ♔d8 12.♔f4 ♔d7 13.d5 ♔e5? [13...♔a5 was best. White gets tremendous central pressure via the exchange. We will wait to see if the latest M CHESS (v/1.50) - with an improved Book - includes this correction] 14.♔xe5 ♔xe5 15.f4 ♔g7 16.♖b1 - This is not to attack the b/Pawn so much as to stop Black playing b5, which he would certainly like to do here - 16...♙c7 17.f5 gxf5?! 18.exf5 a6 19.a4 ♔e5?! - Pointless - [19...♙e5 is a better plan, and Black stands reasonably well] 20.g3 ♔f6 21.♖f4 ♔g5 22.♖g4 - One expects a pin like this to be critical, but nothing comes of it! - 22...h6 23.♙c2 [23.h4 looks obvious, but... ♔xf5! and Black is still okay!] 23...♙e5 24.♖f1 diag

6



24...♙f8 25.♙e4 ♙f6? - A very surprising decision; the exchange of Queens surely wouldn't have harmed Black in the way this will - [25...♙xe4 26.♖xe4 looks Black's best choice by far] 26.h4 ♔d2 27.♖g6 ♙h8 28.d6! - Releasing the c4/Bishop into the attack - 28...exd6 29.♔xf7 ♙xf7 30.♔d5+ ♙f8 31.♔xd2 ♙e8 32.♖e1 ♙f7 33.♔d5+ ♙f8 34.♔f4 - And Black resigned. A

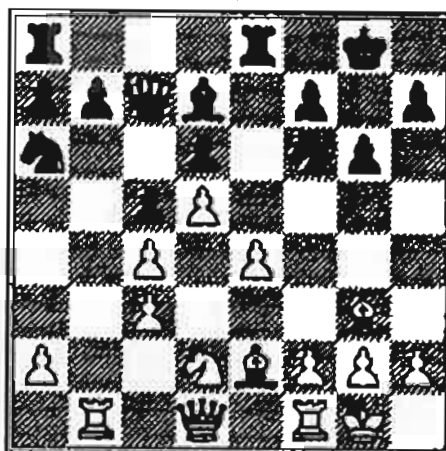
Championship-winning demonstration by GIDEON (the Chess Machine-to-be) - 1-0

Gideon (CM) v Spracklen

WMicro Champs (r 5), 1991

1.d4 ♠f6 2.c4 g6 3.♠c3 ♠g7 4.e4 0-0 5.♠f3 c5 6.d5 d6 7.♠d3 ♠a6 - The Spracklen program appeared to show a preference for Knights over Bishops in this Tournament (a Saitek philosophy?); but it's choice of position here is not going to get this one involved too quickly! - 8.0-0 ♠g4 9.♠e2 ♠b6 - A move described in Schach & Spiele as -ein Stellungstyp!-, which I like the sound of! - whatever it means. I think Black should be getting his Knight out of the way to c7, to allow the advance of his a and b/Pawns - 10.♠b1 ♠d7?! - Another surprising choice, as it had only just gone to g4 - 11.♠e3 ♠g4 12.♠g5 ♠c7? - Black had foreseen the GIDEON reply to this, but misread the outcome - 13.♠xe7 ♠fe8 14.♠h4 ♠c8 [14...♠xc3 was what SPRACKLEN had planned at move 12, thinking that... 15.bxc3 ♠xe4 was okay for him. But... 16.♠g5 ♠e3 17.fxe3 ♠xh4 18.♠xf7 is clearly better for White, though beyond the computer's range of vision when ♠c7 was played] 15.♠g3 ♠xc3 16.bxc3 ♠f6 17.♠d2 ♠c7 diag

7



- White is a Pawn up, and well in control - 18.e5?! - What is this? An optimistic choice, that's for sure. Simple progress by ♠c2, f4 and perhaps ♠b1 to prepare e5, would leave White with a very clear advantage. Nevertheless, there is a point to 18.e5, as we see - 18... dxe5 19.♠h4 ♠g7 20.♠xf6+ ♠xf6 21.d6 - One imagines it was the prospect of this Pawn push (if 21... ♠xd6??? 22.♠e4+) which enticed GIDEON into playing so positively with 18.e5 - 21... ♠c6 22.♠f3 e4 23.♠xe4+! [23.♠xe4 ♠xe4 24.♠f3+ ♠f5 25.♠xe4+ ♠xe4 26.♠xb7 ♠xf3 27.gxf3 ♠d8 28.♠xa7 ♠xd6 and Black has good prospects of a draw] 23... ♠xe4 24.♠xe4 ♠xe4 25.♠e1 ♠xc4? - Allowing White a simple winning tactic - a pity, as SPRACKLEN had played quite competitively in this one, against the eventual World joint no.1! - [25... ♠c6 was much better, covering f3, attacking d6, maintaining protection for b7!] 26.♠f3+ ♠g7 27.♠xb7 ♠e6 28.♠e7 ♠d5 29.♠g3 ♠xa2 30.♠e5+ ♠h6 31.♠f6 ♠b8 - It's been there on a6 since our

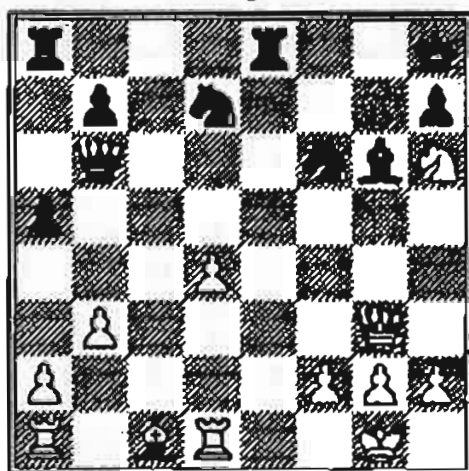
note at move 7! - 32.♖7e3 - Threatening Rh3 mate, of course - 32...♙xg2 33.♙xg2 ♖d5+ 34.♙g1 ♙g5+ 35.♙xg5+ ♙xg5 36.♞e8 - Easy to spot, but deadly - 36...h5 37.d7 ♖xd7 38.♞xa8 f6 - Black's operators show an over-abundance of optimism in their program! The correct move now was resign! - 39.♞a1 ♖e5 40.♞1xa7 ♖f3+ 41.♙h1 ♖e5 42.♞a5 f5 43.♞a2 ♙f4 44.♞c8 ♖d3 45.♞d2 ♖e5 46.♞xc5 - The protracted manoeuvring has been to stop Black playing Nd3 here, forking Rook and c3/Pawn - 46...♙g4 47.♙g2 h4 48.♞c6 h3+ 49.♙xb3 ♙f3 50.♞xg6 ♖xf2+ 51.♞xf2+ - And Black's evaluation must have gone into 4 figures at this point, as its operators actually gave up - 1-0

Mephisto v Gideon (CM)

WMicro Champs (r 7), 1991

1.e4 c6 - Using Lang's favourite opening as Black against him! I still insist it doesn't suit computers well, whoever they are! - 2.d4 d5 3.♖c3 dxe4 4.♖xe4 ♙f5 5.♙g3 ♙g6 6.♙c4 e6 7.♖le2 ♖f6 8.♖f4 ♙d6 9.♙b3 ♙c7 10.♙f3 ♖bd7 11.0-0 a5 12.c3 c5?! [12...0-0 is safer... 13.♙xe6 fxe6 14.♖xe6 may "win" Rook + 2 Pawns for Bishop and Knight, but gives White no real advantage in practical terms] 13.♙xe6 - In fact, if it was best after 12...0-0, it probably is now as well! Also it looks spectacular - 13...fxe6 14.♖xe6 ♙b6 15.♖xg7+ ♙f7 16.♖7f5 cxd4 17.cxd4 ♙xg3 18.♖h6+ ♙g7 19.♙xg3 ♞he8 20.♞d1 ♙h8 21.b3 diag

8



- MEPHISTO's first move towards releasing the c1/Bishop onto the long a1-h8 diagonal, where it will be very dangerous working alongside the h6/N - 21...♞ac8 [21...♖d5! blockading the passed Pawn probably gives Black the slight advantage. Larry Kaufman comments here that White's extra Pawns, being immobile, are worth less than GIDEON's effective Knights; 21...♙xd4 is another spectacular-looking move (not now 22.Rxd4 Rel mate); but... 22.♙e3 ♙e5 23.♙h4 ♙h5 24.♙xh5 ♙xh5 25.g4 ♙g6 26.♙d4 and Black still has problems] 22.d5! - Well timed play! White's Bishop will be able to enter the game most effectively now - 22...♞e2 [22...♞c2 looks a better try... 23.♙e3 ♙b5 24.♙d4 ♙b4 threatening 25...Rxa2 26.Rxa2 ♖xd4 and back-rank mates at d1 or e1] 23.♙e3 ♙b5 24.♙d4 - The Bishop is clearly dangerous on this diagonal; watch how effective and long-

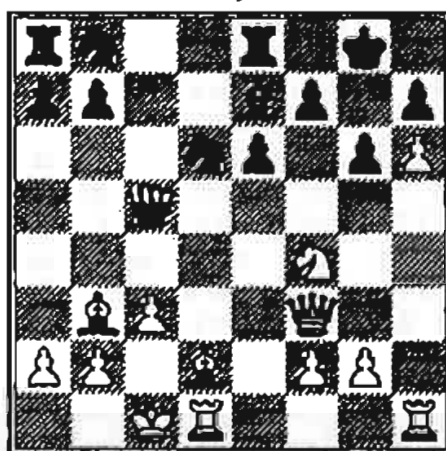
lasting the pin is on the f6/Knight - 24...Bce8 25.Ac3 Bb6 26. d6 Bd8 27.Bg5 b6 28.f4! Bf8 29.f5 Ae8 30.Bel Ah5 [30...Bxel+ 31.Bxel threatening Re7 and wins] 31.Bxb5 Bxel+ 32.Bxel - And Black resigned. A game in which MEPHISTO looked like the World Champion it (usually) is - 1-0

Gideon (CM) v Mephisto

WMicro Champs (p/off 2), 1991

1.e4 c6 - I suppose I might have expected this! - 2.d4 d5 3. Qc3 dxe4 4.Qxe4 Af5 5.Qg3 Ag6 6.Qle2 e6 7.Qf4 Ad6 8.c3 Qe7 9. h4 Af5 10.Ac4 0-0 11.Qf3 Qa5 12.Qxf5 Qxf5 13.Ad2 Be8 14.0-0-0 Ae7 15.h5 Qd6 16.Ab3 c5 17.dxc5 Bxc5 18.h6 g6 diag

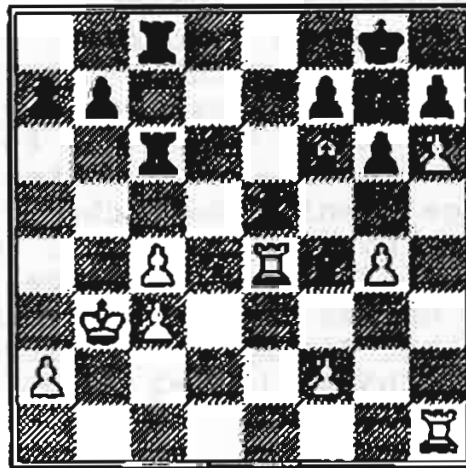
9



- We'll have a diagram here, as we come to a moment at which there was nearly an outright World Champion instead of a shared Title - 19.Ae3? [19.Qxe6!! from GIDEON would have surely saved all the after-Match discussions on who really won, and which really is the stronger (remembering GIDEON's speed advantage in the Tournament)... fxe6 20.Axe6+ Qh8 21. Ae3!! threatening the deadly Bd4+!! What can MEPHISTO do about that?! If... 21...Ag5 pinning the Bishop... 22.Qb1 Axe3 (22... Bxe6 23.Qf8+ mate!) 23.Qf6+ mate! Strangely MEPHISTO was expecting this crushing line in its display; and GIDEON (Chess Machine) simply missed it (the horizon effect created by the apparent Bg5 refutation?!). Perhaps justice was done in the end?] 19...Qc6 20.Qh3 Qc4 21.g4 Ec8 22.Axc4 Bxc4 23.Qb1 Qc6 24.Qf3 Qe5 25.Qg2 Bb5 26.Ad4 Qc4 27.b3 Qa3+ 28.Qc1 Qg5 29.Qe4 Ad6 - MEPHISTO is now ready to do damage to White's Pawn structure in the course of the next few moves - 30.Qb2 Qxf4 31.Qxf4 Qc4+ 32.bxc4 Axf4 33.Qb3 Ec7 34.Af6 Bxc8 35.Ed4 e5 36. Be4 Ec6 diag

(diagram 10)

37.Axe5 [37.Ah4? is one alternative, aiming to avoid exchanges and a worsening of the Pawns... f5! 38.gxf5 gxf5 39.Bhel Bxh6 and Black is winning in this variation; 37.g5! and Lyon would probably have continued... Bb6+ 38.Qc2 Ba6 39.Qb3 Bd6 40.a4 and in this one Black is only slightly ahead] 37...Axe5 38.

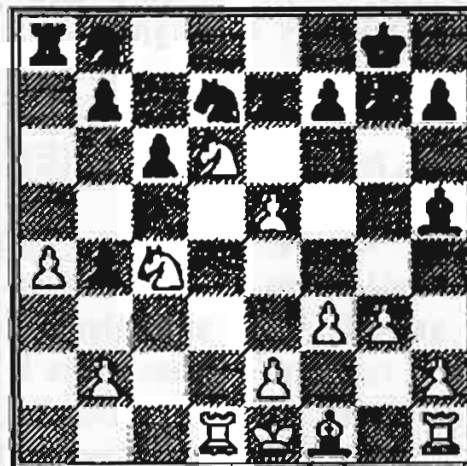


Ex5 **E**xc4 39.**E**h3 **E**xg4 - White has lost a Pawn, and now has even worse Pawn weaknesses - 40.**E**e7 **E**b8 41.**E**f3 f5 42.**E**fe3 **E**h4 43.**E**e8+?! **E**x8 44.**E**x8+ **Q**f7 45.**E**b8 g5 46.**E**xb7+ **Q**g6 47.**E**xa7 **E**f4 48.**E**a6+ **Q**h5 49.**E**e6 **E**xf2 50.c4 g4 51.c5 **E**f3+ 52.**Q**b2 g3 53.**E**e1 [53.c6 g2 54.c7 g1 \mathbb{Q} 55.c8 \mathbb{Q} **Q**g2+ 56.**Q**c2 **E**f2 and wins] 53...**E**d3 54.**E**h1+ **Q**g5 55.**E**g1 f4 56.c6 **E**d8 57.**Q**b3 **E**c8 - And White resigned here - 0-1

Gideon (CM) v Mephisto

WMicro Champs (p/off 3), 1991

1.c4 - MEPHISTO's victory on the Black side of the Caro Kann has persuaded the GIDEON team to change openings for Game 3 - 1...c6 2.d4 d5 3. Δ f3 Δ f6 4. Δ c3 dxc4 5.a4 Δ g4 [5... Δ f5 is well-known in the Czech system] 6. Δ e5 Δ h5 7.f3 Δ fd7 8. Δ xc4 e5 9. Δ e4 Δ b4+ 10. Δ d2 **Q**h4+ 11.g3 **Q**e7 12.dxe5 0-0 13.**E**c1 a5 14. Δ xb4 axb4 15.**Q**d6 **E**e8 16.**E**d1 - GIDEON has been in its Opening Book all the way to here! Definitely a case of careful preparation - 16... \mathbb{Q} xd6 17. Δ exd6 **E**e7 diag



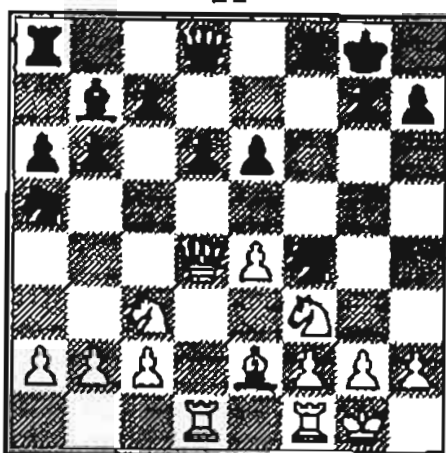
- And this game was agreed Drawn here, as part of the package
- $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Mephisto v Gideon (CM)

WMicro Champs (p/off 4), 1991

1.d4 b6 2.♘f3 ♘c6 - Of course this throws MEPHISTO out of Book, though it is not clever positionally - 3.d5 ♘a5 4.♘c3 e6 5.dxe6? - Black's programmers must have found that Lyon made this positional error in their private testing! Thus the reason for the strange Opening Book choice of 2...Nc6 - to provoke the mistake! - [5.e4 was better, maintaining the d5 Pawn and the advantage of the extra space] 5...fxe6 6.e4 ♘b7 7.♗g5?! - Not a good use of time. Black will gain development for his Knight, and this Bishop will just drop off the board - 7...♗e7 8.♗xe7 ♗xe7 9.♗b5 a6 10.♗e2 0-0 11.0-0 ♗g6 12.♗d4 d6 13.♗ad1 ♗f4 diag

12



14.b4 - Stop here! Can you see the refutation of this - almost surely missed by the Lang program - it's very sweet! - 14...c5! 15.bxc5 ♗c8! 16.♗d2 [16.♗xd6 ♗xd6 17.♗xd6 ♗xc5 and White has problems; 16.cxd6 ♗xc3 17.♗xc3 ♗xe2+ and wins; 16.cxb6 is the same... ♗xc3 17.♗xc3 ♗xe2+ winning] 16...♗xc5 17.♗d1 ♗c7 - And MEPHISTO resigned this one, so ending with a 2-2 draw in the Play-off. Here, from... [17...♗c7 and White loses another Pawn after... 18.c3 e5 19.♗e3 ♗c4 20.♗xc4+ ♗xc4 and it's 'bye 'bye to the e/Pawn] 0-1

The LATE, LATE NEWS!

TRAVELMASTER portable is now out and performing in accordance with the claims made for it! In an official Grading Test in the U.S it rated at 2070 from 48 games, and our own initial games show it at around 2000/175 BCF. It's still small sample as yet, but an optimistic start. Our latest available grading calculation will be shown in the Rating List on the back page. Full REPORT and games in the next S/S.

Mephisto MILANO is the latest Ed Schroeder version ('beyond the POLGAR') and makes this program available at a lower price bracket. With a big opening book and Polgar's extensive training and other features, but including some of the search extension work for King attacks as used in the Chess Machine! The unique feature is a new 'LAPTOP Design' (which I haven't seen yet). It's press sensory and £269.

GIDEON - The CHESS MACHINE

My decision to move from the ATARI ST to an EPSON LAPTOP PC seemed to have been greatly rewarded when I learned that **The CHESS MACHINE** (GIDEON, joint World Micro Champion) was coming out in a RISC version for PC's ONLY! My order was placed very quickly, even before exact details confirming that the RISC card (which you insert inside your PC... but a fairly simple operation!) would run at 16MHz with 512K RAM (there is a slightly cheaper 128K RAM version). This means, in chess terms, a version running at close to 50% of the speed used in the unit at the VANCOUVER Championships. So, yes, I was quite excited!

The GOOD NEWS... and the BAD NEWS!

The CHESS MACHINE is by Ed Schroeder, the ACADEMY/MM5/POLGAR programmer. Indeed this version has evolved from those, but with the addition of a singular extension technique similar to the methods used by the big main-frame machines and by Richard Lang to obtain the big tactical speed improvement in his LYON. Reference to my **PROCESSOR SPEED** Chart will quickly show POLGAR (6502) 5MHz x 1 = 5MHz. CHESS MACHINE (RISC) 16MHz x 2 = 32MHz. Thus a speed-up over the POLGAR of just over SIX TIMES plus further benefits from the 512K Hash Tables! The calculations caused me to anticipate a working chess strength somewhere around the LYON 68020/20, but below the LYON 68030 despite the Vancouver result!

So the GOOD NEWS is that, after 4 weeks of testing, I believe the estimate is correct! - the program is VERY strong! The BAD NEWS (at least for me) is that I have been absolutely plagued with constant interruptions to games as my otherwise 100% reliable LAPTOP regularly LOCKS-UP. This, of course, means a complete RESET of the PC itself, followed by restoring The Chess Machine into memory, and then setting up the game and clocks to the latest position. Not a lot of fun, especially when it sometimes occurs 2 to 3 times in the same game!

Thus my personal confirmation of the program's definite strength is based on a much smaller games sample than it ought to have been; and life over the past few weeks has been rather less peaceful and enjoyable than without the blighter! You can possibly guess what comes next!? The suppliers of The Chess Machine believe it is a fault in my PC (they admit they have had the EXACT problem themselves - but claim it is ONLY with my particular PC model!)... and the suppliers of my Epson PC, of course, insist it is a fault in the RISC card! My guarantees with both firms seem to get me nowhere, but I remain £500 worse off (and play less chess than usual!).

It should be said that reports from Sweden and the States indicate that, after over-heating problems with some early units, they are now getting on okay with their versions. Hopefully TASC (the Dutch suppliers) can soon solve my particular anxieties - I know they are trying their best. The EPSON is fine with everything else I use and, I think, the fault must lie with the RISC card.

Readers will understand that it is VERY hard at the moment to decide whether to recommend The CHESS MACHINE to any prospective purchasers out there. The folk at Countrywide would LOVE to sell you one (business is business, after all) - but this employee would like to see the suppliers solve his problem so that he could recommend it with hand-on-heart and full confidence! Should everything work out okay, I will print it in LARGE BOLD LETTERS in S/S so that no-one is left in any doubts that I finally can 100% recommend it!

As readers know, I hardly ever come down against anything (I may ignore a new machine sometimes if I am finding it hard to be generous!). And I don't at all want to be "against" The CHESS MACHINE - it makes it SO hard to sell them, and it clearly IS a terrific chess player. That's its PROBLEM! - it has been so much in the news that you'd wonder if I'd lost my marbles if I'd completely ignored it in this S/S. Yet I can't write in glowing terms about something you might then want to buy off me, when I have had endless difficulties getting my own to work reliably. However, let us complete the Article on a brighter note!

Here are my own and the Swedish results for version 2 (the Vancouver unit with singular extensions), as at 16th Sept 1991. They really are good!

v Meph VANCOUVER 68020/12 15-13	v Meph LYON 68020/12 11½-6½
v M CHESS 386/PC 23-13	v Meph LYON 68000 31½-14½
v Fidelity MACH 3 15-3	v Mephisto MM5 8½-1½
v Mephisto POLGAR 22-3	v Mephisto AMSTERDAM 20-0
v Novag SUPER EXPERT C/6 21½-2½	v Mephisto ACADEMY 6-2
v Fidelity MACH 2C 5-1	v CXG SPHINX/4 5½-½

Of course, you want to see some games! No sooner said than done; 3 "shorties":-

Novag SUPER EXPERT C/6 - The CHESS MACHINE

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.b4 Bb6 6.Qc2 a5 7.O-O axb4 8.cxb4 Nxb4 9.Qc3 Nc6 10.Bxc6 dxc6 11.Qxe5+ Be6 12.Nc3 O-O 13.Qf4 Nb5 14.Qb4 Qxb4 15.Nxb4 Rfd8 16.Nf3 f6 17.b3 Bc4 18.Rd1 Nf4 19.a4 Nd3 20.Rf1 Ra5 21.Rb1 f5 22.Ra1 fxe4 23.Nh2 Rf5 24.Ng4 Ne5 25.Ne3 Bxe3 26.dxe3 Bxf1 27.Kxf1 Nd3 28.Nxe4 Re8 29.Ng3 Rxf2+ 30.Kg1 Rc2 31.Ba3 Rxe3 32.Nf5 Ree2 33.g4 Rg2+ (Announcing mate in 7 after an 11 sec. "think") 34.Rb1 Nf4 35.Ne7+ Kf7. 0-1

Mephisto LYON 68020/12 - The CHESS MACHINE

1.g4 (Forced by me. Naughty, I know, but I do like to see how computers handle themselves in the Grob!) e5 2.Bg2 d5 3.d4 Bxg4 4.dxe c6 5.Nf3 Nd7 6.Qd4 Bf5 7.Qc3 a5 8.a3 c5 9.Qb3 Nb6 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Bxe7 Nxe7 12.Nh4?! O-O 13.Qc3 Qc7 14.Nxf5?! Nxf5 15.f4 f6 16.Qd3 fxe 17.Bxd5 Nxd5 18.Qxd5 Kh8 19.Qxe5 Qc6 (with a +222 eval) 20.Rf1 Rae8 21.Qc3 Nd4 (+412) 22.Kd1 Qg2 23.Re1 Rxe2, and White resigned.

The CHESS MACHINE - Fidelity MACH 3

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 dxc 3.e3 b5 4.b3 cxb 5.Bxb5+ c6 6.Bc4 bxa 7.Rxa2 Nd7 8.d4 Nb6?! 9.Bb3 e6 10.Ne5 Bb7 11.Qh5 (-004 so far) g6 12.Qh3 Nd7 13.Nxf7 Kxf7 14.Qxe6 (+029, that's all) Kg7 15.Qf7 Kh6 16.e4 (+845!) Qg5 17.Bxg5 Kxg5 18.Qxd7! 1-0.

Endgame Corner - Solutions

Problem 1.

1.e4 Qxe4 2.Qh3+ Qh4 3.g4+ Kh6 4.Qg2! - and this FORCES mate in 6!

Problem 2

1.Bd3+ Kb7 2.Bxc2 Bg6!! ~ I found this idea myself (honestly), and was delighted to see Lyon confirming this as winning for Black - which of course spoils the problem and White's aim of achieving a draw!

Problem 3

1.Qc8+ Kd6 2.Qd8+ ~ Which also wins! - 2...Qd7 [2...Kc5 3.Qb6+ Kc4 4.Qb4+ Kd3 5.Qb1+ also wins] 3.Ne4+ Kc6 4.Qb6+ Kd5 5.Nf6+ ~ winning the Queen again.

Problem 4

1.Kg6 a5 2.Kxh6 a4 3.Kg6 a3 4.h6 a2 5.h7 a1Q 6.h8Q+ Qxb8 - Did you get this far? Hands up if you thought White was now struggling! But Black's Queen is quite useless, and White gets the draw as follows - 7.f6 b5 8.cxb5 c4 9.b6 c3 10.b7 Qxf6+ - Just in time, or Black actually loses - 11.Kxf6 - And it's stalemate. Lyon found this line in 3½ mins!

Problem 5

1.b8N+ Rxb8 2.axb8N+ Kd6 3.c8N+ Ke6 4.d8N+ Bxd8 5.exd8N+ Kf6 6.g8N+ Rg8 7.h8g8N+ Kg6 8.f8N+ - And it's mate in 8! Have you ever seen anything like it?... not unless you've previously seen this one itself I would think. Lyon sorted it out in 1min 40secs.

Adverts

Please note: Adverts are for SUBSCRIBERS only and cost £3 for up to 3 lines. Money with written-out advert please. Extra lines £1 each.

Advert: Chessmaster 2100 USER GROUP. IBM and compatible computers (3½" disk only). Send SAE plus DISK to **BRYAN WHITEY**, 16 Manse Field Road, Kingsley, Warrington, Cheshire WA6 8BZ.

Advert: Mephisto MUNCHEN LYON 68020. In mint condition with instructions and original box. £900. Tel: **LARRY MILLINGTON** on 0925 574797 (work) or 061 724 9715.

Advert: Novag SUPER FORTE B/6. £150. **Mephisto SUPERMONDIAL I.** £75. Excellent condition, boxed. Tel: **ROSS WITHEY** on 0705 471490 (evenings) or write him at 49 Maylands Road, Bedhampton, Hants PO9 3NR.

Advert: Fidelity DESIGNER 2100 - as new and with brand new chess set. £85 incl. delivery by reg. post. Phone **ALASTAIR SCOTT** on 071 637 9111 ext 2506 (9-5.30pm).

RATING LIST (c) SEL SEARCH 36									
BCF Computer	Elo	+/-	Games	Pos	Human/Games				
222 MEPH LYON 68030	2362	25	330	1	2431	43	1930	134	
220 MEPH PORTOROSE 68030	2360	21	460	2	2354	82			
217 MEPH LYON 68020/20	2341	57	66	3	2227	10			
211 MEPH LYON 68020/12	2288	13	1238	4	2263	52			
208 FTD ELITE 68040-V10	2271	82	32	5	2299	6			
206 FTD ELITE 68030-V9	2248	19	553	6	2180	13			
205 MEPH PORTOROSE 68020	2244	11	1611	7	2258	182			
203 MEPH LYON 68000	2227	17	691	8	2090	33			
201 MEPH ALMERIA 68020	2214	14	1003	9	2188	215			
199 MEPH PORTOROSE 68000	2194	12	1417	10	2127	25			
197 FTD MAC+ELITE 68020-V7	2194	14	1097	11	2199	130			
194 FTD ELITE 2x68000-V5	2154	29	248	12	1888	2			
192 MEPH ROMA 68020	2139	14	1018	13	2052	64			
192 MEPH POLGAR/10	2137	20	528	14	2085	54			
190 MEPH ALMERIA 68000	2124	14	1025	15	2104	31			
189 MEPH DALLAS 68020	2114	14	996	16	2080	197			
189 NOV DIABLO/SCORPIO 68000	2112	59	62	17	2079	9			
187 FTD MAC+2265 68000-V2	2098	7	4117	18	2116	223			
185 MEPH M5/5	2086	16	792	19	1902	11			
185 MEPH POLGAR/5	2081	11	1765	20	2142	11			
184 MEPH DALLAS 68000	2073	12	1478	21	2000	50			
182 MEPH MONDIAL 68000 XL	2060	17	714	22	2060	77			
182 NOV SUPER FORTE-EXP C/6	2056	11	1518	23	2005	24			
181 MEPH ROMA 68000	2055	10	2107	24	1975	54			
181 MEPH ACADEMY/5	2048	11	1769	25	2036	92			
178 MEPH AMSTERDAM	2031	9	2363	26	2068	182			
178 NOV SUPER FORTE-EXP B/6	2029	13	1250	27	2020	82			
178 MEPH MEGA 4/5	2026	10	2142	28	2041	169			
177 FTD MACH 2C 68000	2023	9	2536	29	2066	127			
177 KASP GAL-REN 0/10	2022	13	1184	30	1985	97			
176 MEPH SUPHOND 2-MCARLO 4	2013	31	212	31	2074	8			
176 FTD MACH 2B 68000	2010	26	302	32	1968	25			
175 MEPH M4/5	2002	9	2666	33	2013	89			
174 FTD-MEPH TRAVELMASTER	1996	49	88	34	1970	48			
174 NOV SUPER FORTE-EXP A/6	1993	14	1070	35	2040	176			
172 KASP TURBO KING 2	1980	21	457	36					
171 MEPH MONTE CARLO	1974	30	240	37	2046	10			
171 Cx6 SPHINX/4	1969	11	1685	38	1956	155			
171 KASP GAL-REN C/8	1969	26	313	39	2016	98			
169 FTD MACH 2A 68000	1968	25	338	40	1918	35			
167 NOV SUPER FORTE-EXP A/5	1940	12	1450	41	1836	29			
167 NOV EXPERT/6	1940	31	222	42	2036	12			
167 FTD CLUB B 68000	1937	12	1389	43	1827	18			
165 NOV EXPERT/5	1927	27	287	44	2052	62			
164 NOV FORTE B	1919	10	1913	45	1975	208			
164 MEPH REBELL	1917	10	1937	46	1948	69			
164 FTD AVANT GARDE/5	1916	11	1717	47	1862	80			
164 FTD PAR E-ELITE-DES2100	1913	9	2413	48	1927	220			
163 KASP STRATOS-CORONA	1911	10	1871	49					
163 NOV FORTE A	1909	10	2102	50					

RATING LIST (c) SEL SEARCH 36									
BCF Computer	Elo	+/-	Games	Pos	Human/Games				
162 MEPH SUPHONDIAL 1	1899	12	1316	51	1990	6			
162 CONCH PYTHAG/5.5	1899	10	1965	52	1939	55			
162 KASP SINTURNO	1897	16	839	53	1830	36			
161 KASP GAL-REN B/6	1897	14	966	54	1873	123			
161 FTD CLUB A 68000	1893	30	228	55	1767	6			
161 KASP TURBO KING 1	1891	24	337	56	1910	61			
160 CONCHES/6	1887	44	107	57	2037	8			
160 FTD EXCELLENCE/4	1886	11	1549	58					
159 NOV EXPERT/4	1864	15	946	59	1975	43			
159 CONCH PYTHAG/4	1873	24	372	60	2027	6			
158 SCI TURBO KASP/4	1870	20	512	61	1959	52			
158 Cx6 SPHINX 40	1869	86	29	62					
157 FTD ELITE C	1860	34	182	63	1869	11			
156 FTD ELEGANCE	1854	17	685	64	1872	40			
156 MEPHISTO NM2	1854	16	781	65	1776	8			
156 KASP GAL-REN B/4	1853	12	1305	66	1896	61			
155 FTD EXCELLENCE-DES2000	1847	11	1641	67	1982	6			
155 KASP PRISMA-BLITZ	1843	30	235	68	1801	46			
154 NOV SUPER MOVA	1834	25	343	69	1853	48			
153 CONCHES/4	1827	20	509	71	1937	23			
152 NOV SUPER CONST	1823	7	3610	72	1858	264			
151 MEPH BLITZ	1810	27	277	73	1962	6			
150 NOV SUPREMO	1801	75	38	74					
149 NOV SUPER VIP	1795	27	286	75	1864	8			
147 FTD ELITE A	1776	39	111	76	1779	20			
146 FTD SENSORY 12	1774	13	1260	77	1805	7			
146 MEPH EXCL S/12	1770	31	213	78	1941	27			
145 FTD PRESTIGE	1767	17	695	79	1758	131			
145 MEPH EUROPA-MARCO POLO	1760	35	173	80					
144 SCI SUPERSTAR 36K	1759	15	927	81					
144 CONCHES/2	1758	14	1696	82	1786	11			
143 NOV QUATRO	1744	19	565	83					
142 NOV PRIMO-VIP	1744	25	332	84					
141 MEPH MONDIAL 2	1743	16	825	85	1861	17			
139 FTD ELITE B	1729	83	31	86					
136 MEPH MONDIAL 1	1694	29	247	88	1656	31			
136 FTD ELITE ORIG	1693	39	139	89	1840	5			
134 NOV CONST/2	1676	13	1262	90	1730	37			
133 SUPER ENT-ADV STAR	1667	15	880	91	1636	11			
128 CHESS 3000	1625	112	17	92					
125 FTD SENSORY 9	1606	14	1000	93	1646	59			
123 KASP ASTRAL-COND-CAVL	1585	77	36	94					
121 CHESS 2001	1570	50	84	96					
120 MEPHISTO 3	1561	18	633	97	1644	20			
119 SCI SUPERSTAR ORIG	1557	29	242	98					
119 KASP TURBO 24K	1553	45	104	99					
119 KASP TURBO-EXPRESS 16K	1552	35	168	100					

RATING LIST (c) SEL SEARCH 36									
BCF Computer	Elo	+/-	Games	Pos					
221 CHESS MACHINE V2 512/PC	2374	29	249	1					
215 CHESS MACHINE V1 512/PC	2320	41	128	2					
214 M CHESS 486/PC	2315	34	179	3					
208 M CHESS 386/PC	2264	20	509	4					
199 M CHESS 286/PC	2197	37	152	5					
190 REX 486/PC	2190	49	90	6					
190 PSION 2 386/PC	2126	52	77	7					
188 M CHESS/PC	2111	96	23	8					
184 REX 386/PC	2078	24	370	9					
181 PSION 2 286/PC	2048	103	20	10					
180 PSION PDM 386/PC	2046	92	32	11					
179 REX 286/PC	2037	83	25	12					

RATING LIST (c) PC's SEL SEARCH 36									
BCF Computer	Elo	+/-	Games	Pos					
174 PSION PDM 286/PC	1994	94	24	13					
171 PSION 2/PC	1970	10	1931	14					
166 COLOSSUS X 386/PC	1933	94	24	15					
165 C'MASTER 2100 386/PC	1924	48	91	16					
164 C'MASTER 2100 486/PC	1918	94	24	17					
155 PSION PDM/PC	1847	34	177	18					
153 CHESSMASTER 2100/PC	1828	34	179	19					
151 CHESSPLAYER 2150/PC	1808	47	95	20					
150 SARGON 3/PC	1804	49	90	21					
148 CHESS CHAMPION 2175/PC	1788	38	240	22					
145 FINAL CHESSCARD/PC	1762	38	148	23					
142 PSION OL/PC	1736	55	70	24					